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Letter dated 11 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to the passing today of a five-month-old Israeli infant, critically wounded last week by Palestinian terrorists.

On the evening of 5 June 2001, Benny and Batsheva Shoham were travelling near Shiloh with their only child, five-month-old Chaim Yehuda. Shortly after 10.00 p.m. (local time), a large rock, hurled by Palestinians hiding by the roadside, crashed through the window of their car. Neither parent was injured, but the infant sustained massive head injuries and spent nearly a week in intensive care in a hospital in Jerusalem. The child died of his wounds earlier today.

The death of Chaim Yehuda Shoham is merely the latest atrocity committed by Palestinians amidst a more than eight-month campaign of terrorism, detailed in my letters dated 4 June 2001 (A/56/85-S/2001/555), 30 May 2001 (A/56/81-S/2001/540), 25 May 2001 (A/56/80-S/2001/524), 18 May 2001 (A/56/78-S/2001/506), 11 May 2001 (A/56/72-S/2001/473), 9 May 2001 (A/56/69-S/2001/459), 1 May 2001 (A/55/924-S/2001/435), 23 April 2001 (A/55/910-S/2001/396), 16 April 2001 (A/55/901-S/2001/364), 28 March 2001 (A/55/863-S/2001/291), 27 March 2001 (A/55/860-S/2001/280), 26 March 2001 (A/55/858-S/2001/278), 19 March 2001 (A/55/842-S/2001/244), 5 March 2001 (A/55/821-S/2001/193), 2 March 2001 (A/55/819-S/2001/187), 14 February 2001 (A/55/787-S/2001/137), 13 February 2001 (A/55/781-S/2001/132), 2 February 2001 (A/55/762-S/2001/103), 25 January 2001 (A/55/748-S/2001/81), 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-S/2001/71), 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2000/1252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108) and 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065).

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This reprehensible act of terrorism, which has claimed the life of a five-month-old child, comes more than two weeks after Israel announced that it would not initiate any military action against Palestinian targets and barely a week after Palestinian Authority Chairman Yassir Arafat again committed himself to fighting violence and terrorism.

While Israel took note of Chairman Arafat's statement, it maintains that words are meaningful only if they are followed by concerted and discernible actions on the ground. Despite this, Palestinian incitement continues unabated, and convicted terrorist prisoners continue to walk the streets, free to plan and carry out terrorist attacks with no effort expended to stop them.

It is for these reasons that Israel holds the Palestinian Authority responsible for this latest act of terror, and calls upon it to abide by its signed commitment of 9 September 1993 not only to renounce violence and terrorism, but also to actively restrain and discipline those Palestinian elements who continue to engage in this deplorable and unacceptable practice.

Israel further reiterates its call upon the international community to take a clear and unequivocal stand against terrorism, regardless of its declared motives, and to work to ensure that those who engage in or lend their support to terrorist activity will find no refuge among the community of nations.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under item 179 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative